



California Department of Veterans Affairs

ADVISORY

Contact: JP Tremblay
Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
Fax 916-653-2611
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNCHAINED EAGLES A TRIBUTE TO FORMER POWS FROM VIETNAM

EVENT: Twenty former POWs will be recognized for their brave endurance during the Vietnam War with a recognition dinner and ceremony in the town of Orland, California. Several of the ex-POWs being recognized at this event were held captive in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Sponsored by Pat'N'Larry's Steakhouse in Willows, California, this recognition event will pay tribute to all POWs held captive during their military service in Vietnam. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) will be presenting these ex-POWs with a medal commissioned by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger honoring their valiant service. This medal was first presented in 2005 to former POWs and families of those still listed as MIA at the inauguration of the National POW/MIA Memorial at the Riverside National Cemetery.

DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 2006

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Flaherty Hall
Glenn County Fairgrounds
221 East Yolo Street
Orland, CA 95963

WHO: SR-71 Pilot Brian Shul, Guest Speaker
Roger Brautigan, California Department of Veterans Affairs
Federal, State, and Local elected officials

CONTACT: Pat'N'Larry Steakhouse for tickets
530-934-4273

BACKGROUND: From 1961 to 1973, the North Vietnamese and Vietcong held hundreds of Americans captive. In North Vietnam alone, more than a dozen prisons were scattered in and around the capital city of Hanoi. American POWs gave them nicknames: Alcatraz, Briarpatch, Dirty Bird, the **Hanoi Hilton**, the Zoo. Conditions were appalling; food was watery soup and bread. Prisoners were variously isolated, starved, beaten, tortured for countless hours and paraded in anti-American propaganda. "It's easy to die but hard to live," a prison guard told one new arrival, "and we'll show you just how hard it is to live." www.vietnamwar.com/hanoi Hilton.htm.

CDVA has an annual department operating budget of approximately \$300 million, a Farm and Home Loan program with assets of about \$2.4 billion, and approximately 1,600 employees statewide. CDVA provides outreach to veterans reentering civilian life after having answered America's call to military service, by helping them claim their earned veterans benefits, provides low-cost loans to acquire homes and farms, and when the time comes, provides aged and disabled veterans rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in home-like environments at the California Veterans Homes.

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